

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 COME-00 L-02 INT-05 CG-00

DOT-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AGR-05 SS-15

NSC-05 DLOS-03 EB-07 IO-10 H-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /074 W
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O R 231930Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7449

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: RENEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL SHRIMP FISHING ARRANGEMENT

REF: STATE 015688

1. SUMMARY: BRAZIL REPORTEDLY HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH BARBADOS, WHICH INCLUDES A PHASE-DOWN BUT NOT A PHASE-OUT OF BARBADOS FISHING VESSELS BY END OF THREE-YEAR PERIOD. THIS APPEARS CONSTITUTE PARTIAL RETREAT FROM ORIGINAL EXTREME POSITION, REALITY AND EXTENT OF WHICH CAN ONLY BE ASSESSED WHEN WE HAVE MORE INFO ON TEXT OF BARBADOS AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECON COUNSELOR, JANUARY 22, MINISTER SERGIO GUARISHI BATH, ACTING HEAD, FONOFF ECON DEPARTMENT, SAID GOB HAD JUST COMPLETED RENEGOTIATION SHRIMP FISHING ARRANGEMENT WITH BARBADOS.

3. BATH SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BARBADOS DID NOT ACCEPT GOB'S JURIDICAL POSITION, COMPROMISE FORMULA HAD BEEN
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FOUND, RESULTING IN THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT. CEILING ON

VESSELS WOULD DECLINE GRADUALLY OVER THREE-YEAR PERIOD, AND AT END OF AGREEMENT PERIOD, WHOLE PROBLEM WOULD BE REVIEWED ANEW. (WHILE CEILING IS SET IN NUMBERS OF VESSELS, LOWERING OF CEILING IS APPARENTLY RELATED TO ANNUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTION IN ABSOLUTE NUMBERS OF VESSELS ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN DISPUTED WATERS AND/OR NUMBERS OF VESSELS ALLOWED TO OPERATE AT ANY ONE TIME.)

4. SERGIO BATH IMPLIED THAT NUMBERS OF VESSLES ALLOWED TO OPERATE WITHIN 200 MILE ZONE WOULD REMAIN SUBSTANTIAL AT END OF THREE-YEAR PERIOD, WITH (THEORETICAL) PHASE-OUT POINT ON BASIS OF CONSTANT PERCENTAGE DECLINE LYING WELL BEYOND LIFE-SPAN OF AGREEMENT. NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO APPARENTLY SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK. WHILE BATH DID NOT ASK ABOUT US INTENTIONS, IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE USG TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS.

5. COMMENT: APPARENTLY, GOB BACKING AWAY FROM ORIGINAL PHASE-OUT POSITION, ALTHOUGH REALITY AND EXTENT OF RETREAT CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED WHEN WE HAVE MORE INFO ON TEXT OF AGREEMENT WITH BARBADOS. IN PREPARING ITS POSITION, GOB QUITE CLEARLY GAVE INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO CONSERVATION RATIONALE AS BASIS OF US POSITION AND UNDERESTIMATED CONSTRAINTS ON USG IMPOSED BY US JURIDICAL POSITION AND LOS NEGOTIATIONS.
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